

Ethan's Ghost

by xXxAnInspiredWriterxXx

Category: Casualty

Genre: Hurt-Comfort, Romance

Language: English

Characters: Caleb K., Ethan H., Lily C.

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2016-04-10 20:28:54

Updated: 2016-04-19 21:26:44

Packaged: 2016-04-27 20:23:39

Rating: T

Chapters: 4

Words: 5,023

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: Cal lost his little brother to suicide when he was just a teenager. Now he's a doctor at Holby City ED and is overcome by a pile of bad memories when Lily is admitted for the same reason. But why is Ethan back and why is Lily the only one who can see him?

1. Chapter 1

Chapter One

"Is she breathing?"

Iain held his fingers to Lily's neck and nodded faintly. He could feel a pulse, it was slight but it was there and that was the main thing. Sighing deeply, he strokes Lily's hair and gave her a slight shake to see if she would open her eyes. They remained shut, as if they were glued stuck with superglue. Dixie watched, chewing anxiously on her lip whilst trying to hold back her tears.

"Lily," Iain spoke softly. "Can you hear me, princess? Squeeze my hand if you can hear me."

Iain took hold of Lily's hand and felt a small squeeze. Feeling reassured, he smiled and nodded at Dixie. Dixie nodded back and began to wrap up Lily's left wrist, it was bleeding and she guessed that she'd cut it with the knife that was lying on the carpet. It wasn't that that had knocked her unconscious though.

"Any idea what she's taken?" Dixie asked.

Iain shook his head. "No," he whispered. "I'll page Mrs Beauchamp and inform her that Lily's coming in. It won't be easy news for them." Dixie nodded and Iain paged through to the ED. "Okay, we have a potential overdose coming in and a slashed wrist. You might want to prepare, it's Doctor Lily Chao. She's unconscious, pulse is very weak

but she's responsive. ETA, ten minutes."

"Nicely done, mate," Dixie said. "Okay Lily, we'll get you to the ED in no time at all. You're going to be just fine."

"Wh...Where am I?" Lily groaned, wearily opening her eyes slightly. She then winced, feeling the pain shoot through her body.

"That...That's not my arm," she whispered, noticing the bandage that Dixie had wrapped around her wrist.

"She seems quite out of it," Dixie stated quietly. "Come on, let's get her into the ambulance."

* * *

><p>"Okay, if everyone would listen up," Connie shouted, gathering everyone around the reception desk. She was the last one who wanted to break the news but she knew that as clinical lead, she had to. Tears pricked her own eyes as she wondered why one of her doctor's would go as far as wanting to end her own life but she didn't show it to any of the staff. "Iain has just paged me and said that Lily is being brought in after an attempted suicide."<p>

"Lily?" Rita asked and raised her eyebrows. "Of all people? What's she done?"

"Potential overdose and it looks as if she's cut her wrists as well," Connie informed them all. "Now we don't know why, we have no idea what was going through her head at the time so let's keep things settled for her and only let certain people treat her. Understood?"

"Well, I'll help," Rita offered.

"Yeah, me...Me too," Robyn spoke up, choking back her tears.

Cal anxiously raised a hand. He was fairly new to the ED and had only been working there a couple of weeks, but Connie knew about his situation so understood that treating Lily may be a bit too much for him.

"Can I have a word?" He whispered.

Connie nodded and gave him a comforting smile, gesturing for him to follow her.

"Are you okay?" She asked when they were away from the others.

"Do you mind if I sit this one out?" Cal asked. "Sorry. I...I know it's insensitive because Lily needs us but...It just reminds me of...Of Ethan..."

"Of course," Connie said and nodded at him. "Of course. I understand Cal, don't worry. Lily's going to be in resus so how about you help in cubicles? Would that be okay?"

"Yeah," Cal replied. "Thanks, Mrs Beauchamp."

Everyone knew about Ethan, even though no one had ever met him. He'd died at thirteen years old, when Cal had been fifteen. It was

suicide, Ethan had been badly bullied and had been tested for depression from a young age but the bullying got worse and worse and Ethan didn't tell anyone about it until it was too late. He jumped off a bridge onto a busy motorway and died at the scene.

That was why Cal wanted to become a doctor. He wanted to help people, he wanted to be able to do what the other doctor's couldn't do to Ethan. He wanted to go away at the end of the day knowing that he had made a change in someone's life. He knew that there would be hard times when they couldn't quite save a patient but he still wanted to try.

He often told his colleagues stories about Ethan, about their childhood. They were often funny and in just a few days, everyone felt as if they personally knew Ethan Hardy.

"Okay get her straight through to resus," Connie ordered, when Iain and Dixie arrived with Lily. "Have we any idea what she's taken?"

"No," Iain said, wheeling her through to resus. "Dixie's wrapped her wrist up but we still need to get those pills out of her. She's quite out of it as well, had no idea where she was or who we were."

"Okay get her on the bed," Zoe said, as she and Connie stood either side to treat Lily. "Lily, it's Doctor Hanna. We're going to help you lovely, okay?"

"Get your hands off me!" Lily screamed, gritting her teeth together.

"No, darling," Zoe said gently and pushed her back down on the bed. "Come on, good girl."

"Is Cal helping?" Rita asked, rushing over to help Connie.

Connie shook her head. "No, he's in cubicles," she told her. "It...It brings back memories for him."

"Ah, of course," Rita said, suddenly remembering about Cal's younger brother.

Robyn hovered by the doorway, watching with tears in her eyes.

"Robyn," Connie sighed, keeping her attention focused on Lily. "I'm sorry but I am going to have to be stern with you here. Right now Lily is a patient, not a doctor so if you cannot handle seeing her like this then I suggest you get out and let us handle it instead."

"B...But I can help!" Robyn argued.

"Not like this you can't," Connie said. "Just go. And anyone else who isn't up for this can leave right now with her. We have lives at stake here and we cannot afford mistakes."

"I'm sorry, Lily," Robyn whispered and quickly exited resus.

"I want my book back," Lily sobbed.

"What the hell is she talking about?" Zoe asked.

"No idea," Connie sighed, as she shone a light into Lily's eyes.
"Lily, Lily, stop...Stop fidgeting for me."

"Just let them help you," a random voice told Lily and she had no idea where on earth it was coming from. "Just look at me, okay? To your left?" Lily's eyes snapped open and she reluctantly looked to her left.

There was a man standing there, with blonde hair and glasses. Lily had never seen him before but he was dressed in scrubs, was he a doctor at Holby or something?

"Who...Who are you?" She stammered, tears trickling down both sides of her face.

"My name is Ethan Hardy," he introduced himself. "Cal's younger brother."

"But you're dead!" Lily screamed, knowing that she was turning crazy.

"But I'm really here and you need to listen to me," Ethan said. "You need to let them help you. Your pulse is weak and you'll die if you don't let them help."

"It's what I want," Lily sobbed.

"Just let them help," Ethan repeated himself. "Or you'll end up like me and you don't want that."

"Who on earth is she talking to?" Zoe asked.

"She must be disorientated," Connie said.

"Please Lily," Ethan begged.

"Come on Lily," Connie said at the same time. "Just calm down for me now."

"How...How do you know my name?" Lily cried.

"Because," Ethan let out a heavy sigh. "I'm here to help you."

**Well, there is the first chapter of my new story. I hope you like it so far, let me know what you think. **

2. Chapter 2

chellsthompson: Thank you :)

CBloom2: I thought so, I was quite proud with the idea. We'll soon see :)

Agirlwithgreatpotential: Here you go :)

** holby fan112: I will do :)**

Chapter Two

Cal was sat on the sofa in the staffroom, his knees shaking and his hands clasped together in front of him. He let out a deep breath and winced as he rubbed at his forehead, he didn't even acknowledge the sound of the door opening.

"Are you okay?" Charlie asked, taking a seat beside the younger man. Cal just faintly shook his head, trusting Charlie enough to tell him the truth. "Lily's fine, you know? They've pumped her stomach, stitched her wrist up and she's going to be fine. She's on suicide watch for the time being but that can only be expected really."

"Why did she do it?" Cal whispered and made eye contact with Charlie.

Charlie shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know," he said. "But she's currently studying to be a registrar and she has her exam in a couple of months. Lily is an extremely hard worker, we think that she may have stressed herself out a bit too much. She probably wasn't intending to kill herself, she just wanted something to help with the stress."

"It reminded me of Ethan," Cal admitted in an even quieter voice.

"How old was he when he died?" Charlie asked.

"Thirteen," he said. "I was fifteen."

"Ah yes," Charlie said and nodded at him. "I remember you telling me now."

"It's silly," Cal sighed. "But I sometimes talk to him, as if he's still there. If I'm having a bad day or something, I can sometimes feel as if he's there with me."

"That isn't silly at all," Charlie said. "Did you ever talk to someone about it?"

"I used to have counselling," Cal told him. "But I don't anymore, I don't feel as upset as I used to. At first, I...I wondered why I was even still alive but then I thought that Ethan wouldn't want me to think like that so I got my head down and worked hard and...Got on with life."

"Well, you know that you can always talk to me," Charlie said. "And Connie as well. She may seem like a witch but she's still your boss, she does care. She let you sit out when Lily came in, didn't she?" Cal nodded. "And you have Zoe as well. We're all here for you, you're a valued player of our team."

"Thanks Charlie," Cal said. "I'll probably go and see Lily later. I just...I can't, not right now. It brings back too many memories."

"That's understandable," Charlie said. "I'm sure Connie will send her love."

* * *

><p>Zoe walked in to see Lily sat up in bed, flicking through the television channels with the remote. She smiled sympathetically and shut the door behind her for a bit of privacy, before making her way over to Lily's bed. Her wrists were bandaged and she looked quite pale and tired in the face, causing a different look for the young junior doctor.<p>

"There isn't anything on," Lily mumbled, throwing her head back against the pillow.

"What about a film?" Zoe suggested but Lily shook her head. "I know you're really bored, love," Zoe sighed.

"I have some of my study materials in my locker," Lily mentioned. "Do you mind getting them for me? I might as well make use of my time."

"I don't think that's such a good idea," Zoe said.

"Please, Zoe," Lily whined.

"Sorry darling but I'm putting my foot down," Zoe said. "Why don't you read a book and by book I mean something fictional and non-educational?" Lily shrugged and Zoe brought a torch out of her pocket. "Let me just check your vitals, hmm? See how you're doing? Are you in any pain at all?"

"A little, maybe," Lily replied.

"All right then," Zoe said. "I'll adjust your medication slightly but if you start feeling worse you need to tell someone, it's important, Lily."

Lily nodded. "I know." But Zoe didn't look convinced. "I will. Trust me," Lily added.

"Good." Zoe smiled at her, as she finished off what she was doing. "Now, is there a certain book you'd like me to try and find for you?"

"Not really," Lily sighed, giving Zoe a tiny shrug.

"How about Alice in Wonderland?" Zoe asked. "It's my favourite book, I have a copy in my locker if you want to borrow it."

"I don't think so," Lily said. "Books like that are stupid."

"Books like what?" Zoe asked.

"Alice in Wonderland, Narnia, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings..." Lily listed off her fingers. "They're all stupid, they're not real."

"That is the fun of fiction, Lily," Zoe pointed out. "It doesn't have to be real. I'll go and hook that book out for you."

Lily didn't say anything and continued to flick through the channels.

Zoe stroked her hair and exited the room, making sure to shut the door on her way out. Connie was stood by the reception desk, looking through Lily's notes.

"How's she doing?" Connie asked, without looking up from her stack of papers.

"She's bored more than anything," Zoe answered her. "I was just going to get her a book. She wanted to carry on with her studying."

"Yeah, good luck with that," Connie sighed. "Not happening."

"That was what I told her," Zoe said. "And I don't think she should be taking this exam if this is the state she gets in over it. We know what Lily is like, she works hard and she puts way too much pressure on herself. The exam isn't worth it if she keeps trying to hurt herself."

"It's a shame as well," Connie said, eventually looking up from the notes. "She would have made such a good registrar."

"And she will do one day," Zoe said. "I just don't think now is the right time." Connie nodded and Zoe walked off towards her locker so that she could grab her copy of 'Alice in Wonderland' for Lily. She knew that she'd enjoy it, no matter how much she pretended to hate fiction.

She slammed her locker door shut and made her way back towards Lily's room. She was lying in bed and the TV was on, BBC News blaring out, although Lily wasn't paying much attention to it. Zoe gave her a comforting smile and handed her the book.

"If you don't like it, fine," Zoe said. "But at least give it a go."

"How many times have you read this?" Lily questioned, flicking through the book.

"A few times," Zoe laughed. "It'll at least cure the boredom, eh?" Lily nodded, managing a small smile. "I'll be back to check on you later and I'm sure Connie will pop in at some point within the next hour or so."

Lily nodded and Zoe once more left her room. She was alone, with nothing but Alice and The White Rabbit for company. She let out a heavy sigh and slowly began to read, her heavy eyes starting to close.

"I'm glad you're okay," Ethan said to her.

"Why are you even here?" Lily whispered to him. "You're supposed to be dead and you don't even know me!"

"What?" Ethan chuckled. "You don't believe in a little thing called ghosts? I've been watching you, Lily."

"Watching me?" Lily raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

"You're not happy so I've been watching you," Ethan said. "It's my job to make sure that you don't do anything stupid, not like I did."

When I found out that you were Cal's friend, I knew that I had to help you."

"I don't need help," Lily muttered under her breath.

"Then why are you in a hospital room on suicide watch?" Ethan asked and Lily was silent. "I thought so. Listen, you seem really nice and you're my brother's friend so I'm going to look after you from now on. Wherever you go, I'll be there right by your side."

****Thank you to all of those who are reading the story. I'm really glad you like it :)****

3. Chapter 3

****LittleBritishPerson: Let's hope so. Thanks for reviewing :)****

****sweet-as-honey: Yeah, me too. He hasn't been working there long but he seems to have made lots of friends. I like that idea too, I wanted to include Ethan so he's there but not there if that makes sense :)****

Chapter Three

"I don't think that this is such a good idea, Lily," Ethan said as the two of them walked along the corridor to the bathroom. Lily felt it weird, having a ghost as a friend. She'd expected him to float, to look half invisible but instead he was just like a normal person walking alongside her. The only difference was that she could walk straight through him and that no one else could see or hear him. "You're on suicide watch at the moment."

"Yeah well I refuse to use the pan under the bed," Lily spat, pushing the door open to the girls bathroom. She slammed it shut and after a few seconds, Ethan walked straight through the door. "What are you doing in here? This is the girl's bathroom."

"I'm watching you, remember?" He smirked and folded his arms across his chest.

"You're really starting to creep me out," Lily sighed and went into one of the cubicles.

"Just hurry up," Ethan called, waiting outside for her. A few minutes later, Lily exited and went to wash her hands. Ethan was just where she had left him. "You don't believe me, do you?"

"What do you mean?" Lily asked.

"You think I'm imaginary, all in your mind," Ethan said.

"It's just hard to take in," Lily said, giving her hands a hard dry on the hand towel provided. "It's nothing against you or anything." And she pushed the door open and walked back out, Ethan at her side.

"Lily!" Connie bellowed and Lily caught sight of her walking towards them. She prayed that she wouldn't see Ethan, prayed that she hadn't

heard her talking. "What are you doing out of your bed?"

"I needed to go to the bathroom," Lily whispered. "Or is that against the rules now?"

"Back to bed," Connie ordered, pushing her firmly back towards her room. "You may be a good doctor but you're a terrible patient." Lily just shrugged her shoulders and climbed back into bed. "Comfy?" Connie asked and she nodded. "Why don't you get some sleep? You look really tired."

"I'm not," Lily sighed, looking around for Ethan.

She couldn't see him.

"Weren't you reading Alice in Wonderland?" Connie asked, spotting the book on the bedside table.

"I got bored," Lily whispered. "Have they ever done an adult version of Alice being diagnosed with Schizophrenia or of Alice taking drugs? They should do."

Connie laughed and shook her head. "You're a one off. I'll leave you to get some rest."

"Don't you want to talk about it?" Lily asked her.

"Talk about what?" Connie frowned.

"Why I did it." Lily gave a small shrug. "I thought you'd want to know, I thought you'd be asking me."

"Now isn't the time," Connie said. "When you're better, I will be talking to you more about it in detail. For now, get some rest." And with that, she walked out of the room and shut the door.

"Are you looking for me?" Ethan asked, causing Lily to snap out of her trance.

"Where did you go?" Lily asked, catching sight of him standing by the doorway.

"I thought I'd disappear quickly before Connie saw me," Ethan said. "Sometimes people who are feeling extremely low within themselves or close to suicide can see me. Of course I never really know who those people are so I stay out of the way just in case."

"Connie would never feel like that," Lily scoffed.

Ethan shrugged. "Maybe," he replied. "But it's better to be safe than sorry."

"So can you do whatever you like as a ghost then?" Lily asked and Ethan nodded. "Like what?"

"I can wear whatever I want," Ethan said. "I just have to think of the outfit and it's there, I can go wherever I want."

"It sounds really cool," Lily said. "And you're trying to stop me from killing myself?"

"Being a ghost isn't all cool," Ethan said. "You realise what an affect your death has had on people's lives and it can get really lonely. Think about it, no one can see you and you don't see many other ghosts hovering around Earth." Lily was silent. "Anyway, didn't Mrs Beauchamp tell you to sleep? Maybe you should."

"What will you do?" Lily asked.

"I have someone I need to see."

* * *

><p>Ethan stepped through the door of the staffroom and spotted his older brother sitting on the sofa. He took a deep breath and hovered in the doorway but Cal never once looked up from his mobile. He knew what he had to do.<p>

"Cal," Ethan spoke in a quiet voice.

Cal looked up. He looked in Ethan's direction before looking around him and shaking his head.

"Cal, it's me," Ethan whispered and placed a hand on Cal's shoulder. "Your little brother. Ethan. Cal, please talk to me."

Cal rubbed at his head and sat back against the sofa with a sigh. It was no use, he couldn't see him. Ethan hadn't expected Cal to see him but he knew that it was worth a try anyway. Cal looked so lost though, so helpless and lonely.

"I miss you bro," Ethan said softly. "You've grown some muscles," he laughed.

But Cal just sat there, motionless.

"Oh Cal," Ethan sighed. "If only you could hear what I was saying."

The door opened and Ethan leapt to his feet to see an older man enter with a glass of water for Cal. He recognised him from earlier.

"Hi Charlie," Cal greeted him and took the drink. "Thanks."

"How are you doing?" Charlie asked and sat down beside him.

"Bastard," Ethan cursed under his breath. "That was my seat."

"Something really weird just happened," Cal said. "I...I felt this...This weird sensation come over me. It was as if someone was in the room, talking to me. It was...Almost ghost like."

"That's me," Ethan whispered, watching as the two men talked. "I've been watching you Cal, I just...I just wish that you could see me."

But Ethan knew that the only way for Cal to see him was that if he was close to ending his own life.

4. Chapter 4

****CBloom2: You'll soon see :)****

****Bonnie Sveen Fan: Yeah, I think it might do :)****

****holby fan112: Thank you so much. I don't think he is either, Ethan's a lovely person :)****

****sweet-as-honey: Haha, I love Alice in Wonderland. I liked the little things like that, Ethan's going to be quite humorous in this story which I like. That does sound pretty cool, just wearing whatever you like :)****

Chapter Four

Lily stared at the book intensely, it was just sitting on the table in front of her closed with the pictures pouring off of the cover. Lily sighed and ran her hands down her face, remembering a line that she had read in the book. _Have I gone mad? _That was how Lily felt, was Ethan even real or was he just a figment of her imagination? The door to her room opened and surprisingly, Cal walked in. She hadn't been expecting him to visit her at all.

"I didn't think you'd come," Lily whispered.

"Well," Cal sighed and sat in the chair by the bed. "I wasn't going to but then...I don't know, it was as if someone was telling me that I should come and see you. How are you doing?"

"Not too bad," Lily sighed. "Bit bored and I don't like being watched."

"Understandable." Cal gave a tiny shrug and whispered, "why did you do it?"

"I don't know," Lily answered, avoiding eye contact with him. "Did it...I mean..."

"I know what you mean," Cal whispered. "And honestly, yes it did. It's why...Why I couldn't come and see you. I wanted to, I mean, you're my best friend Lils. I still think about Ethan and it really upset me to know that you'd also attempted to end your own life."

"Were you and Ethan close?" Lily asked quietly and Cal nodded. "Do you...Do you talk to him sometimes?"

"Sometimes," Cal admitted. "It sounds silly but I do. I wish him a Merry Christmas every year, a Happy Birthday and I...I just talk to him about things that are bothering me. It feels...Comforting."

"It's not silly," Lily said and shook her head at him. "I...I saw him."

"What?" Cal frowned.

"I saw Ethan," Lily whispered. "He...He's been visiting me."

"He can't have, Lily," Cal said. "Ethan died when he was thirteen. He killed himself for crying out loud so...So don't you dare sit there and say something like that. You never even knew Ethan, how can you talk like that about my brother?"

"I'm sorry, Cal," Lily apologised. "But I really did see him. He...He came into my room, he said that he was your brother and he told me that he was a ghost and that I was the only one who could see him."

"Lily, stop it," Cal hissed, clenching his jaw to stop himself from losing his patience. "Just stop talking. You're actually upsetting me."

"I don't want to," Lily whispered, tears pricking her eyes. "Please just listen to me."

Cal wasn't having it though. He shoved Lily's hand away from his arm and stood up before storming out of the room. Connie was just on her way to check on Lily and he ended up bumping into her on the way out. Literally.

"What's the matter with you, Doctor Knight?" She shouted, bending down to pick up the files that she'd dropped. Cal didn't answer her. "What's happened? Is it Lily?" She asked, standing back up.

"She's...She's talking nonsense," he said, curling his hands into fists. He sighed and looked Connie in the eyes. "She said...She said that she saw Ethan, that he visited her as a ghost. She can't say stuff like that, Connie!"

"Lily doesn't even know Ethan," Connie told him. "Didn't he die when you were kids?"

Cal nodded.

"Look," Connie sighed. "She's delusional, she's tired and she's highly medicated. She probably has no idea what she's saying."

"She seemed pretty sure to me," Cal muttered under his breath and crossed his arms. "She just can't say stuff like that, it upset me."

"I'll talk to her," Connie promised him. "Just try and forget about it for now. Lily's your friend, don't stay angry with her for too long." All Cal could do was nod, as Connie walked into Lily's room. "Right, I'm just going to have a look at your vitals okay? You're looking better." Lily gave her a small smile and Connie shone a torch into her eyes. "Now, whilst I have your attention what's all this about Cal's brother?"

"He told you?" Lily sighed heavily and threw her head back against the pillow.

"Well, he was in quite a state when he left your room," Connie said. "I kind of talked him into telling me. What's going on? Cal's your best friend, the only person who was nice to you when he started

working here and then you go and ruin it."

"I haven't ruined it, have I?" Lily asked. "I really did see him, Connie. He visited me, he said that he was Cal's brother and he said that he was called Ethan."

"Were you dreaming?" Connie questioned.

"I know I wasn't," Lily said. "I know what's real and what isn't."

"You're tired," Connie sighed and put the torch back into her pocket. "Why don't you get some sleep?"

"That's all I've been doing lately," Lily said. "I want to go home. I want to go back to work."

"You are not fit enough to be going home," Connie told her. "Not just yet anyway. As soon as I feel you're better, you can be discharged. For now, you're staying here. I'll get you something to eat, okay? You must be starving."

Lily nodded and Connie swiftly moved towards the door.

"Mrs Beauchamp," Lily called her back and Connie whipped her head round to look at her. "You...You do believe me, don't you?"

Connie hesitated and sighed at her before saying, "get some sleep, Lily."

Then she left.

****Let me know what you think in a review please :) x****

End
file.